

Dearborn Public Schools/Whitmore-Bolles Elementary School

# Whitmore-Bolles Elementary School Family Newsletter

*"Where Students Come First"*Join the Whitmore-Bolles Blog at <http://blog.dearbornschools.org/wbollesnews/>**Dates to Remember:****Nov 7 Watch D.O.G.S. Meeting****Nov 12 1/2 Day****Nov 14 1/2 day****Nov 19 P/T Conferences****Nov 21-23 No School****Nov 29 P/T Conferences****Nov 30 P/T Conferences**

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please make sure you have signed up for a conference with your child's teacher. Conferences will be held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the following days: **November 19th, 28th and 29th**

If you are unable to meet during these scheduled times, please contact your child's teacher to set up a more convenient date or time that works for the two of you. Report cards will be passed out during conference time only, please do not ask your child's teacher for their report card without meeting with them first.

We will also be asking parents to fill out a required *Parent Language Survey* during conference time and we will have a computer available at the entrance of the building to sign up for both the Whitmore-Bolles and the PTA blogs if you have not already signed up.

Whether your child is doing well in school or struggling a bit, conference time is an important way to touch base with his or her teacher. Here is how you can make the most of your meeting:

- Write down questions for the teacher prior to your meeting. To come up with a list of questions, think about each of the subject areas. Be sure to ask if your child is reading at grade level? What are the requirements for Math, etc. Remember to ask about their social skills as well as their behavior.
- Bring a notebook and a pen to take notes during the conference. Write down important information to share with your child and ideas for helping at home.
- Please be on time—the teacher will be meeting with many parents. Conferences are usually scheduled back-to-back with very little time in-between.

**Pizza Days**

Please show your support for our schools and community pizzerias by placing an order for a Pizza. A minimum donation will be given to the Dearborn Education Foundation on any pizza purchased on Wednesday, Nov 7, 14, 21 or 28th from the following Pizzerias:

Dearborn Italian Bakery  
DeMarco's Pizza  
Jet's Pizza (Telegraph & Ford locations)  
Joe & Reno's  
Little Ceasars (Outer Dr)  
Paisano's  
Pizza Papalis  
Pizza King  
Pizza Kitchen  
Roman Village  
Sareini's Pizza

## NEW REPORT CARDS THIS YEAR

This fall, a redesigned elementary report card to better communicate student's achievement is being introduced. The new report card will use numbers to measure progress:

<b>1= Masters Expectations</b>	<b>95-100%</b>
<b>2= Meets Expectations</b>	<b>80-94%</b>
<b>3= Progressing</b>	<b>70-79%</b>
<b>4= Concern</b>	<b>69% or lower</b>

Grade level performance in both reading and math will be reported beginning on the **January** report card. Second through fifth grade report cards will include the results of the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) and Star Math, computer assessments of reading comprehension and math computation. Scores will be reported by year and month (3.1 is the equivalent of third grade, first month). Please let us know if you need any assistance or help understanding the new report card.

# Attendance, Late Arrivals, Early Pick Ups

**A**ttendance is taken at the start of each day as well as the start of the afternoon.

**PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE (827-6800) TO NOTIFY US IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT.**

To make sure your child arrived safely, we will call you if you have not notified us. To determine if the absence will be excused, you will be asked to provide a reason for your child's absence.

The following list of circumstances are the only recognized excuses for school absence: Personal illness, Death in the family, Religious holiday.

By Law, absenteeism (also known as truancy) on a regular basis can be subjected to a legal action such as a court appearance and fine. Chronic absenteeism due to illness must be documented by your family physician and communicated to the office.

At Whitmore-Bolles, if your child has excessive absences you will be notified first by your child's teacher and then by a phone call and next by a letter from the office. If the absences continue, our District Attendance Liaison will notify you also by letter. You will then need to attend a conference with the Principal and the District Attendance

Liaison. Together, we will develop an ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT.

Prompt arrival at school is also expected of all students. Any child who arrives after 8:40AM (late bell) will be recorded as late. Please remind your child to report directly to the office for a late pass to class.

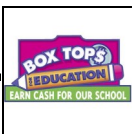
Chronic late arrivals or early pick ups also fall under the same guidelines as truancy, and can be subject to the same penalties.

Please be sure to have your children to school on time and make your best effort to keep them in school for the entire day. Otherwise they will lose out on valuable learning!

## Box Tops for Education

Thank you to all who have already sent in their Box Tops for Education: Keep 'em coming! There are three easy ways to earn money for your child's classroom: 1) clip the Box Tops from participating food items, 2) earn Bonus Box Tops at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), or, 3) shop the Box Tops for Education Marketplace ([www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com))

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 827-6800.



## Getting the most out of School

In the morning, make sure there is enough time to:

- get ready
- have a healthy breakfast
- double check backpack for homework, lunch, books and snack
- get to school on time

After school, make sure there is enough time to:

- check backpack
- have a healthy snack and play/relax time
- have a regular time for doing homework
- prepare for the morning (backpack packed, lunch fixed, clothes out)
- complete personal hygiene
- Read for at least 30 minutes each night
- have an early and consistent bedtime

Helpful Hints:

- Check backpack daily and review homework together
- Recognize their positive efforts
- Have a quiet, well-lighted place for doing homework
- Communicate with your teacher if you have any questions or concerns
- Make school a #1 priority
- Read together every day
- **Have fun!**